

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/568,371

Applicant(s)

MEINDERS, ERWIN

Examiner

M GOOD JOHNSON

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 17 is directed to computer program enabling the carrying out of a method, however a computer program is non-statutory subject matter. Claim 18 recites a record carrier which Examiner interprets as a signal, which is non-statutory subject matter, in that a computer program and a signal both fail to fall within one of the four statutory categories of a process, machine, manufacture or composition of matter.

Regarding claim 1, Baudisch discloses a visual content signal display apparatus (100) comprising: means (101) for receiving a visual content signal (col. 6, lines 15-18, graphical data communication channels 205 and user input channels 245 allow data to be transferred between the imaging system and display units, which Examiner interprets as means for receiving visual content); means (103) for presenting the visual content signal on a primary display (105), (240, image processor); 5 means (107) for extracting background content information from the visual content signal (280, image fork); means (109) for generating a surround image in response to the background content information (255, image processors); and means (111) for displaying the surround

image on a secondary display area thereby providing a combined display having an increased viewing angle (110, larger display).

Regarding claim 2, Baudisch discloses the means (111) for displaying the surround image is operable to project the surround image on to an external surface of an object (figure 16).

Regarding claim 3, Baudisch discloses the external surface is an internal surface of a room (col. 17, lines 29-30).

Regarding claim 4, a visual content signal display apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means (107) for extracting is operable to extract real time background content information from the visual content signal, and the means (109) for generating the surround image is operable to generate a real time surround image in response to the real time background content information.

5. A visual content signal display apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the 25 means (107) for extracting is operable to extract the background content information in response to background meta-data comprised in the visual content signal.

6. A visual content signal display apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means (107) for extracting is operable to extract the background content information in response to a content analysis of the visual content signal.

7. A visual content signal display apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein the content analysis comprises image object recognition.

8. A visual content signal display apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein the means (109) for generating a surround image is operable to perform motion estimation of an image object and to generate the surround image in response to the motion estimation.

9. A visual content signal display apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the background content information comprises a visual characteristic of an image section of the visual content signal proximal to an edge of the primary display; the means (109) for generating the surround image is operable to generate at least a partial surround image having a corresponding visual characteristic; and the means (111) for displaying the surround image is operable to display the partial surround image proximal to the edge.

10. A visual content signal display apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means (109) for generating a surround image is operable to generate the surround image in response to a predetermined image associated with the background content information.

11. A visual content signal display apparatus as claimed in claim wherein the means (109) for generating the surround image is operable to generate the surround image in response to a predetermined default image if no valid background content information is determined.

Regarding claim 12, Baudisch discloses the means (109) for generating the surround image is operable to generate the surround image at a lower quality than a quality of the display of the content signal on the primary display (col. 5, lines 49-50).

13. A visual content signal display apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means (109) for generating the surround image is operable to generate the surround image with a quality that decreases for increasing distance from the primary display.

14. A visual content signal display apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means (109) for generating the surround image is operable to generate the surround image in response to characteristics of a viewing environment associated with the secondary display area.

15. A visual content signal display apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising means for determining a category of the visual content signal and wherein the means

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(109) for generating the surround image is operable to generate the surround image processing in response to the category.

Regarding claim 16-18, they are rejected based upon similar rational as above claim 1.